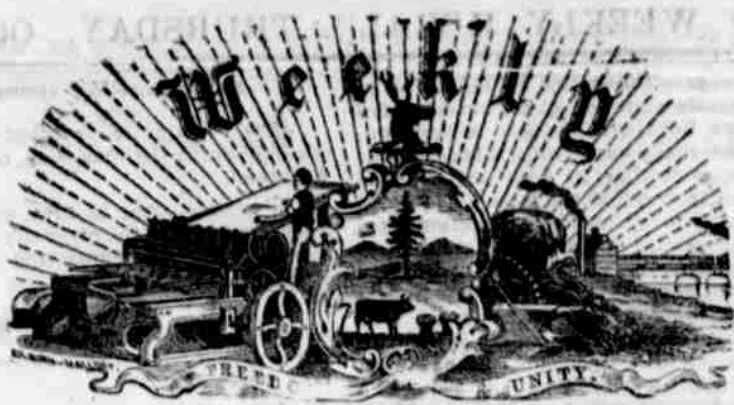


Rutland



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RUTLAND HERALD.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1864.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and House of Representatives:

After a year of many mercies and great prosperity, as we meet to perform the duties imposed upon us by the Constitution of the State, I would earnestly invite you to join with me in rendering to Almighty God the honor and praise that is His due, and to seek His favor and blessing upon the deliberations for which we are now assembled.

I respectfully submit the following statement of the transactions of the State for the year, with such recommendations as seem to require your consideration.

FINANCES.

The detailed report of the Treasurer which I transmit with this, will clearly exhibit to you the financial condition of the State.

From this it appears that the total receipts into the Treasury from all sources have been

Balance Sept 1st, 1863, 122,432 75

Total disbursements, \$2,449,061 41

Leaving a balance on hand Sept. 5, 1864, 424,096 50

The amount of funded liabilities is stated to be 1,423,401 41

The amount of current liabilities 644,282 18

The amount of current resources, 425,338 42

Excess of current liabilities, \$215,443 71

The current expenses for the year are approximately estimated as follows:

Extra pay of \$7.00 per month, 775,000 00

Ordinary State expenses, 160,000 00

Interest on loans and funded debt, 129,000 00

\$1,064,000 00

Deduct bonds authorized in 1862 and not issued, 250,000 00

Leaving to be provided for by tax on loans, \$1,010,443 71

This amount may be increased to the extent of whatever expenses may be incurred in raising additional troops.

The balance due from the United States for raising and furnishing troops as reported in my last communication is about \$80,000. This amount still remains unpaid. Efforts have been made to procure an adjustment of the accounts, but causes beyond my control have thus far prevented. The accounts against the United States for the current year also remain unliquidated. These will amount to about the sum of \$30,000.00. I hope soon to be able to effect a full settlement of all these accounts.

Orders have been drawn by me on the Treasurer to Sept. 1st amounting to \$63,617 48 which may be classified as follows:

Services and expenses of recruiting officers, 24,719 84

Subsistence of recruits not mustered, 1,944 82

Transportation of recruits not mustered, 786 07

Medical attendance and inspection of recruits, 73 70

Arrest of deserters, 93 64

Barracks for Co. 17th Reg't, 485 67

Equipment for recruits for old Regiments, 1,577 14

State pay prior to muster and pay of officers, 17,474 42

Expenses of Adj. and Ins. Gen., 6,070 18

Expenses of Treasurer Nov. 1, 1862 to Nov. 1, 1863, 3,475 09

Services and expenses of Surgeon General, 323 55

Expenses of Executive Department, 435 33

Expenses of special Agents, 322 20

Care of sick and wounded soldiers, including services and expenses of Commissioner and State Agents, 4,184 93

Telegrams to Aug. 1, 1864, 1,159 43

\$63,617 48

STATE AID TO SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

In October last I appointed John Howe, Jr., Esq., of Brandon, agent of the State, to furnish the necessary aid to the families of the soldiers.

The report in detail of that department is herewith transmitted.

From this it appears the amount expended during the past year is \$18,700 42.

The number of families aided, 471

Number of persons aided, 2058

The transactions in the department under Mr. Howe's management have been conducted with great ability and discretion, and while the duties have been delicate, and the labors arduous, prompted purely by motives of patriotism and without compensation, the interests of the State have yet been protected with great fidelity, and the destitute families of the soldiers have received that care and assistance which it was the object of the law to furnish them.

MILITARY.

On the 3d day of August 1863, the War Department authorized the raising of two additional regiments of infantry and one battery of light artillery.

In pursuance of this order my predecessor made arrangements for, and appointed the necessary recruiting officers to raise the 17th Regiment of Infantry and the 3d Battery of Artillery, and also to a partial extent the 18th Regiment of Infantry. It was expected under this order that these could be raised as veteran organizations from the men just returned from the nine months' service, and, as inducements for speedy enlistments, the government authorized the payment of a bounty of four hundred dollars to veterans, and one hundred dollars to new recruits.

The severity of the service which these nine months regiments experienced in the battles of Gettysburg, which occurred just on the eve of the expiration of their term, deterred them from immediate enlistment, and at the time of my entering upon the duties of my office but comparatively few men had enlisted into these organizations.

On the 14th of October, 1863, the call for three hundred thousand men was made by the President, to serve for three years, and authority was given for the payment of four hundred dollars to veterans and three hundred dollars to new recruits.

The quota under the call assessed to Vermont was three thousand three hundred and thirty men, and the period within which to raise the troops was limited to January 5, 1864. The work was at first very greatly retarded from the difficulty of properly adjusting the credits due and belonging to the several towns, from the fact that towns as sub-districts were not recognized by the government. Efforts were however promptly made, by application to the War Department, to remedy the difficulty, and after some delay an order was obtained recognizing towns as sub-districts, and the quotas were accordingly assessed to the towns and their credits properly adjusted. The quota of the State was then promptly filled within the period limited by the call, and on the 1st day of February following sixteen hundred and twenty-one enlisted men stood to the credit of the State as a surplus over all calls that had been made. This surplus continued from that time constantly to augment, with slight variations, under the calls of February 14th and March 14th, so that at the date of the last call by the President, July 14th, the State had an entire surplus of two thousand two hundred and one man.

Under this last call for five hundred thousand men, the quota of the State was five thousand one hundred and fifty-six. Fifty days from the date of the call was the time allotted for filling the quota, and it is with a feeling of just pride that I congratulate the State upon the promptitude with which she has responded to it, and that on the settlement with the General Government to October 1st there was found to be due to the State a surplus of one thousand and fourteen men, which stands to her credit against any future call, should such hereafter be made.

The report of the Adjutant and Inspector General, which will in due time be laid before you, will furnish you more fully in detail the transactions of his department. It is but justice to that officer to say, that the State is largely indebted to him for the energy and efficiency displayed in the details of his department. The services rendered by him have been of great value, and have contributed largely in securing to the State the proud position which she this day enjoys.

The efforts which were made throughout the State to fill the quotas under the first call, the liberal bounties paid by the towns generally, and the fact that under this call new recruits received three hundred dollars bounty from the General Government, while under the order authorizing the raising of the 17th and 18th regiments and the 3d battery, only one hundred dollars was authorized, all conspired to retard enlistments in these organizations, and the question was seriously entertained of disbanding them altogether. Great expense had been incurred up to that period in the attempt to raise the men, and to abandon at that point would have involved the State in a very heavy burden. I however did not feel justified in attempting further to fill the 18th regiment; and accordingly directed the transfer of the men enlisted for that of the 17th regiment. Application was then made to the Secretary of War for authority to pay new recruits for this regiment the Government bounty of three hundred dollars, instead of one hundred. This authority was finally, and after repeated efforts, on the 29th of December, granted. Still further difficulties were experienced at this time by the withdrawal of the town bounties. The embarrassments thus encountered delayed greatly the organization of the 17th regiment. The 3d battery was filled and mustered into the service of the United States on the 5th of January, 1864.

On the 18th of last April seven companies of the 17th regiment were sent to the field under the command of Lieut. Col. Charles Cummings. On the 10th day of May the 8th company, and on the 6th day of July, the 9th company were also sent to join the regiment. The 10th and last company have been fully organized, and is now at New Haven, Conn., waiting to be ordered forward. By special arrangement with the Secretary of War, this regiment, though its ranks have been sadly decimated by the recent severe battles, has been accepted as a complete organization, and authority has been granted to muster its Colonel.

The total amount of men furnished by the State since the commencement of the war is thirty-two thousand seven hundred and ten men—as follows:

For three months' service, 782

For nine months' service, 4,836

For one year's service, 1,758

For two years' service, 1

For three years' service, 25,336

32,710

The total number in service on the 1st of October, as near as can be ascertained from the latest returns, is about twelve thousand two hundred and fifty.

The total number raised since Oct. 1, 1863, including 17th regiment and 3d battery, and credits not heretofore allowed, is 14,020.

The State has thus furnished during the past year more men than in any previous year since the commencement of the war. And the promptitude with which they have been furnished, indicates in most unmistakable language the determination of her people to vindicate the power of the government in this great struggle, and to favor a vigorous prosecution of the war as the only means of establishing a peace that shall be alike honorable and enduring.

AMENDMENT OF ENROLLMENT.

Previous to the call of the President for five hundred thousand men in July last, orders had been issued by the War Department to the Acting Assistant Provost Marshal General of Vermont to have the enrollment lists in the several towns in the State properly revised and corrected up to July 1st, 1864. Notices

were accordingly published in several newspapers in the State calling upon the selectmen to see that the enrollment lists were properly corrected. Upon the returns thus made the quotas of the several towns were assessed. Owing, however, either to the fact that the notices did not reach all the towns, or to a misunderstanding and neglect on their part, great discrepancies were found to exist when the quotas were announced, and numerous applications were made to the Acting Assistant Provost Marshal General for the correction of these errors and the reduction of quotas. A careful examination into these complaints satisfied that officer that there were just grounds for them, and that further opportunity should be given for correcting the lists. Accordingly on the 24th day of August notice was given to the towns to correct the lists, and upon returns being made, it was ascertained that the former enrollment was too large by nearly five thousand, and that consequently the State had been assessed nearly eight hundred men too many. A new assessment of quotas was therefore ordered. The Acting Assistant Provost Marshal General, however, did not feel authorized to make any alteration or reduction of the general quota assessed to the State at large, or to the several Congressional Districts. Consequently the new assessment to towns was made upon the basis of the old assignment of quotas to the State and Congressional Districts. This mode of assessment although affording relief to some towns, only increased the burden to others without relieving the real point of difficulty. It became necessary, therefore, to apply to the War Department for the necessary relief. I accordingly made application, and succeeded in obtaining not only the proper reduction of the enrollment but also the corresponding reduction of the quota of the State, and authority to apportion this to the several towns entitled to the same, so as to equalize the several Congressional Districts. The number thus credited was seven hundred and sixty-seven men, which have been properly distributed to the towns, thus giving to many towns who had already promptly furnished their full quotas, a large excess and credit to apply on future calls, while at the same time those towns which were unjustly burdened by too excessive an assessment have been properly and justly relieved.

RECRUITS OF 1862.

The question of the expiration of the term of service of the recruits who enlisted into various regiments from this State in the summer and fall of 1862, has been an exceedingly delicate and troublesome one, both to the State authorities and to the General Government; and while I have labored earnestly both by frequent correspondence with the War Department and by personal interviews, to secure for them what seemed to me but an act of justice, I am yet compelled to report my inability to accomplish any favorable result.

A simple narration of the facts will better convey to your minds the true position of affairs, and enable you to judge of your duties to these men under the peculiar circumstances in which they are placed.

In 1862 the Governor of Massachusetts obtained from the War Department a special order for that State to the effect that the term of service of all volunteers enlisting in regiments then in the field, would expire with that of the regiment, which order was promulgated in the usual form by publication in the papers of the day. At the same time efforts were being made to recruit for the Vermont regiments, and the order from Massachusetts being published in the form of a general order, and in papers that were extensively read in this State, inquiry was made of the State authorities, both by officers recruiting and by the recruits themselves, whether the term of service of such as might enlist in the Vermont regiments would expire with that of the regiment into which enlistments might be made. To this inquiry, reply as I am informed, was uniformly made, that it would, and assurances were freely given in all cases where the question was raised, till it became the general understanding throughout the State. Upon the strength of these, coming thus authoritatively, recruits enlisted freely and joined the regiments of their preference.

My attention was first called to the subject by a memorial, signed by several of these recruits, who had been informed unofficially that they were to be held for the full three years' service. The enlistment contracts and muster rolls, signed by the recruits, were for the period of three years, but these were at the time regarded as mere form, the assurances given being most prominent in the minds of the recruits, and being wholly relied upon by them. The faith of the State thus became strongly pledged to these men, and they had the right to believe that the pledge would be preserved inviolate.

In May last I first called the attention of the President and Secretary of War to the subject, and they informed me that no authority had ever been granted to this State for such assurances as were given, and while they deeply regretted the disappointment to these recruits, and would cheerfully grant the request for their discharge with the several regiments to which they were attached, if it could consistently be done, yet, that regard for the public safety, compelled them to deny the request. That the same question existed in other States and to grant the request in one instance would settle the principle as to all, and great injury would consequently result to the service, just at the critical period of an important and active campaign. Subsequent applications have resulted in a similar manner. The disappointment

to the recruits in many instances is very great, and yet, I am proud to say, that so far as has come to my knowledge, these soldiers have borne their disappointment manfully and have performed all the duties assigned them with a cheerfulness and alacrity that speaks loudly in their praise.

I would respectfully submit for your consideration whether it might not be well to place these recruits for the remainder of their term on the footing of re-enlisted men, and if anything should be done for these latter in the form of a bounty from the State, that these recruits should also, under these circumstances, be considered, and receive the same or a proportionate bounty. These recruits embrace those who enlisted in 1862 into the regiments and organizations then in the service, and companies L and M of the First Vermont Cavalry.

STATE MILITIA AND MILITIA LAW.

In my last communication I took occasion to direct your attention briefly to the subject of adopting an efficient and active militia system. The events of the past year and the present threatening aspect of affairs, render it especially proper that I should again, and more earnestly, invite you to a serious consideration of the subject.

Vermont stands to-day utterly destitute of any arm of defence or any efficient power to resist or to prevent invasion. The dangers to our northern frontier are by no means inconsiderable, nor can I with a just regard for the welfare of the State overlook them; nor, in the light of the evidence now in my possession, can I justify myself in withholding an urgent appeal to the Legislature to frame such law as will place the State in that position of security, and afford those means of protection to her people, without which they are left exposed to the most wanton and high handed predatory incursions. A prudent regard for the public interest does not admit of my communicating in this form, all the facts in my possession tending to show the actual dangers to which, during the past year, the State has been exposed. It is sufficient for me to say that such evidence, coming from authoritative sources, was placed in my possession, as satisfied me that the peace and safety of our border were seriously threatened, and to lead to the adoption of proper measures to prevent disasters which would have been most serious in their consequences to the entire community. Nor are the dangers by any means altogether averted. The more recent movements upon the western lakes and along the northern frontier are but evidences of thoroughly organized plans, limited by no means to those special localities, but extending throughout the whole line of our frontier, manifesting themselves now upon the more easterly portion and now at other and more remote points along the western border, but all partaking of the same general purpose and bearing unmistakable evidence of being controlled and actuated by one master mind.

I am not unmindful of the sentiment that has hitherto so extensively pervaded the minds of the people of the State, in regard to organizing the militia; and the arguments that have been urged against such a measure have appealed to my own mind heretofore with controlling force. The burdens already resting upon the State are large. The young men who would have been relied upon to bear the most prominent part in such organization have been drawn from us to engage in the active service of the country; the industrial enterprises of the State have thus to a great extent been made to suffer, and heavier burdens are in consequence thus imposed upon those who are left at home.

These and kindred arguments have weighed with me hitherto with great force and I have been not altogether free from doubt as to the expediency of attempting such an organization at the present time. I have however become fully satisfied that a just regard to the safety of our commonwealth demands now at the hands of the Legislature an immediate and vigorous preparation for defence.

If there were ever a time when our safety depended upon our vigilance, when a well organized and efficient militia would prove a bulwark to preserve our peace and a "basis of defense" against threatened invasion, and perhaps the only means of averting it, that time has, in my deliberate judgment, fully arrived.

Feeling thus the importance of an immediate organization of the militia, and with a view to relieve the State, so far as is practicable, of the great and principal source of expense attending such an organization, I made application to the Secretary of War for a sufficient quantity of arms, accoutrements and ordnance stores to arm and equip the militia of this State to the extent of fifteen thousand muskets, in the event of an organization of the militia by the Legislature. In reply the Secretary of War has signified his willingness to furnish the amount required. The State will thus be relieved of the great and principal item of expense; and that which has hitherto been used as a most potent argument against an organization, is now removed. I also received personal assurance from the Secretary that camp equipage, such as might be required for drill and instruction in camp would be freely furnished by the department to the extent needed on the proper requisition.

I transmit with this the correspondence with the Secretary of War on this subject, to which I would respectfully call your attention.

I would therefore respectfully recommend the passage of an act providing for an immediate and proper enrollment of all the arms-bearing population of the State, with proper provisions for examinations and exemptions; from the number thus enrolled, such number of regi-

ments, brigades, and divisions to be organized, armed and equipped as in your better judgment may be thought expedient, and suitable provision to be made for necessary drill and instruction in military duty, and for calling out the militia as occasion may require, with power to the Executive of the State to draft from the enrolled militia to fill up from time to time the regiments organized, or if necessary to organize new ones.

Upon the proper details of such organization you will be best able to judge, and I commit the whole subject to your careful consideration, trusting you will be led to such favorable results, and perfect such a system as will be simple and efficient, and at the same time secure to the State that sure and ample measure of protection from foreign aggression which can be best found, in the form best adapted to our free institutions, only in a well trained and thoroughly disciplined patriotic citizen soldiery—ever present, rarely seen quartered among us, not in camps and forts, but at the fireside, in the counting room, the work-shop, the place of business, ready with stout hearts and trained hands to defend our firesides and our homes from the aggressions of a foreign foe or from the more ruthless attacks of bold marauders, instigated and led on by domestic traitors.

HOSPITALS.

In obedience to the joint resolution of the two houses authorizing and requesting the Governor to provide further and ample accommodations for the sick and wounded Vermont soldiers, I proceeded at once to make such provisions as the interests of the State and the exigencies of the service seemed to require. Instructions were given to the acting Surgeon General of the State, Dr. S. W. Thayer, to make provision for the enlargement of the hospital at Burlington to the extent of two hundred beds, and also to examine and report the best location for the erection of hospital buildings, regard being had to the best accommodation of all parts of the State. In obedience to the instructions given, the acting Surgeon General made the proper examinations and submitted his report, recommending Montpelier as the best and most desirable location, all things considered, and that the necessary buildings for the accommodation of three or four hundred patients be erected, as soon as practicable, provided the location should meet the approval of the Medical Director of the Department of the East. The Medical Director in a personal interview approved the location, and the report of the Surgeon General of the State was subsequently submitted to him, and received his cordial approbation. The report and letter of approval are herewith transmitted. Preparations were accordingly made for the erection of the necessary buildings, and the work was placed in charge of the Quartermaster-General of the State.

In the early part of June last the buildings were partially completed and accommodations prepared for about three hundred beds.

The reports from the several hospitals show that an aggregate of four thousand two hundred and sixteen patients have been received during the past year as follows:

At the U. S. Gen. Hospital at Brattleboro since Oct. 1, 1863, 3412

At the Baxter U. S. Gen. Hospital at Burlington since Oct. 1, 1863, 938

At the Sloan U. S. Gen. Hospital at Montpelier since the completion of the Hospital in June, 871

The same reports show remaining in Hospitals Oct 1st, 1864, an aggregate of thirteen hundred and four, as follows:

U. S. Gen. Hospital, Brattleboro, 487

Baxter U. S. Gen. Hospital, Burlington, 338

Sloan U. S. Gen. Hospital, Montpelier, 479

1304

The large number of wounded in the recent battles will soon increase this number, and added to this, the usual proportion of sick among the new levies who have just gone to the field, the hospital accommodations will soon now be found too limited.

The amount expended in enlarging the hospital at Burlington has been assumed and paid by the General Government, and that amount does not appear in the accounts of the State. The Treasurer of the State has advanced, by my direction, for the hospital at Montpelier, the amount of thirty-two thousand five hundred dollars. Other buildings are now in process of construction, consisting of a chapel and barracks for the Veteran Reserve Corps. The work has been under the supervision of the Quartermaster-General of the State and all vouchers and details of expenditures will be found in his accounts.

In May last, arrangements were made with the War Department to occupy the hospital so far as finished, and to supply the necessary furniture. Notwithstanding the large increase of hospital accommodations, there is not yet sufficient in the State to supply the demand, and many soldiers are still left in distant hospitals, unable to be transferred to Vermont for want of room.

No State has made more liberal provisions for its soldiers than Vermont, and I am happy thus to congratulate the State on the position which she occupies in this respect. Whether it would be advisable to make still further provision to increase the accommodations, is a question left to your careful consideration. The matter of expense, to any reasonable amount, is unworthy of consideration in comparison with the welfare and comfort of the men who have thus nobly offered their lives to their country.

GETTYSBURG CEMETERY.

Soon after the memorable battle of Gettysburg in July 1863, the plan for locating a place for the interment of the remains of the heroes who fell there, in defense of the Union, was originated. In pursuance of this design, arrangements were made by the Governor of Pennsylvania for the purchase of the

land necessary for the purpose, and with a view to make it national in its character, correspondence was opened with the Governors of the loyal States having soldiers lying on the battle-field, and their co-operation invited.

Arrangements were also completed for preparing and beautifying the grounds, and for gathering in from the rude graves, where they were temporarily buried, the brave and gallant dead of the different States, and interring them in lots set apart to each State.

To secure for Vermont a suitable lot, and the more carefully to superintend the disinterment and re-interment of the fallen soldiers from this State, on the 23d day of October last I appointed Col. W. G. Veazey agent on behalf of the State, with instructions to proceed immediately to Gettysburg to discharge the duties assigned him. The report of Col. Veazey is herewith transmitted for your information.

The cemetery grounds were formally dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on the 25th day of November, 1863. The title to the grounds is vested in the State of Pennsylvania, "in trust for all the States having soldiers buried in said grounds."

The total number buried in the cemetery from all the States is three thousand five hundred and twelve, and the number from this State is sixty-one.

Great care has been taken to ascertain and preserve the identity of the bodies, and they now rest in the new cemetery grounds, near the spot where they fell, surrounded by all that art and love can do to adorn their final resting place, halloved by the memories of that great struggle for liberty and humanity to which they consecrated themselves, and in which they so freely yielded up their lives.

Pursuant to the provisions of the act of incorporation, I appointed Hon. Paul Dillingham Commissioner for the State of Vermont.

The total cost of completing the cemetery is estimated to be sixty-three thousand five hundred dollars, and the several States interested in the enterprise are called upon to appropriate their proportion of this amount, to be divided on the basis of the representation of the several States in the Congress of the United States. The proportion of Vermont will be about twelve hundred and sixty dollars. An order for one-fourth of this sum, three hundred and fifteen dollars, as the first installment was drawn upon the State, but there being no appropriation specifically made for this purpose, the order could not be accepted. Strong assurances were, however, given by the commissioner, Lieut. Gov. Dillingham that the necessary appropriation would be made at the present session of the Legislature. I would, therefore, respectfully recommend that appropriation be made of a sum sufficient to pay the proportion of these expenses that may be due from Vermont, and empowering the Governor of the State from time to time to appoint commissioners under the act of incorporation.

I herewith transmit the report of Hon. Paul Dillingham in reference to the subject.

BOUNTIES TO RE-ENLISTED SOLDIERS.

I would most respectfully call your attention to the propriety of providing for the payment of some suitable bounty to the veteran soldiers who have re-enlisted for another period of three years. It is but an act of justice to these gallant soldiers that they should receive some fitting recognition of their devotion, and this new act of consecration to the service of the country.

The State and several towns entitled to them have been credited with these re-enlistments, and have thus been enabled to fill their quotas to that extent with veteran soldiers. Upon the return of these veterans on the promised furlough, they confidently expected, as I have reason to believe, that they would participate in the bounties which were being so liberally offered by the towns for recruits. In this, with but few exceptions, they were disappointed, and were compelled to submit to the manifest injustice of seeing the liberal bounties paid to men inexperienced in the service, while they, war-worn and veteran, having originally responded to the calls of their country without reward, and having by their gallantry won for the State an imperishable and glorious record, were obliged to return to their service unrequited.

I would, therefore, recommend the passage of an act authorizing the payment of a suitable bounty to all these re-enlisted men who have not already received a bounty from the towns to which they are credited.

TOWN BOUNTIES.

The subject of the payment of bounties by the towns demands a careful consideration at your hands. Some sound and judicious legislation is required in order to check the evil tendencies of the present system, and to prevent the excessive extravagance and inequalities which are working so much mischief and injustice in the State. A proper regard to the public interest, in my view, requires that these bounties should be kept within the control of the State, as, in this way only, can a uniform system be secured. It is also a subject for you to consider whether the bounties thus far paid by the towns shall, upon some equitable basis, be assumed by the State. I allude to the subject, however, at this time, not designing to make any recommendation, but simply to direct your attention to it, leaving it to your better judgment to dispose of.

LAW AUTHORIZING THE GOVERNOR TO SUMMON THE JUDGES OF THE SUPREME COURT TO HIS COUNSEL WHEN NECESSARY.

There is no law at present existing by which the Executive is empowered

(Continued on Eighth Page.)